Reduction of forces along LoC

2804. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plan for reduction of the forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no plans to reduce the force level along the Line of Control at this juncture.

Intrusion by Pakistani UAV

2805. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pakistani unmanned aerial vehicle intruded into Indian airspace over Poonch District of Jammu and Kashmir on the night of 24th February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Radar System in the area could spot it before it returned to Pakistan;

(c) if so, why it could not be intercepted and shot down when it was still over Indian airspace;

(d) how many such violations by UAVs from Pakistan have been detected during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken to ensure that such violations of Indian airspace do not take place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There were 21 incidents of violation of Indian air space by Pakistan's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) during the last three years (1st January, 2000 to 3rd April, 2003).